

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20 INSE-00

VO-03 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 070012Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3709

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7647

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: AMPLIFICATION OF RABASA'S VIEWS ON BRACEROS

REF: DREYFUSS/JOVA TELECON SEPTEMBER 6

1. I SPOKE TO RABASA AND TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A LITTLE MEMORANDUM, HOWEVER INFORMAL, COVERING HIS VIEWS AS SET FORTH IN HIS MOST RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE LATTER IN ANY CONVERSATIONS HE MAY HAVE WITH LABOR AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE PARTICULARLY UNCLEAR REGARDING HIS PROPOSAL OF A PERCENTAGE FIGURE.

2. RABASA SAID THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD REGARDING PERCENTAGES. HIS POSITION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THAT YEARLY A MIXED COMMISSION WOULD DECIDE, BASED ON THE LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND, THE NUMBER OF SEASONAL WORKERS REQUIRED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE GOM WOULD HOPE THAT ENTIRE NUMBER WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ENTER AS BRACEROS, BUT IF ON ANY GIVEN YEAR, DUE TO INTERNAL U.S. CONSIDERATIONS, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR FULL NUMBER TO BE ACCEPTED, THEN A PERCENTAGE COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR THAT YEAR.

(B) THE BRACEROS ADMITTED WOULD BE PURELY TEMPORARY
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OR SEASONAL AND WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RETURN TO MEXICO ON

COMPLETION OF CROP GATHERING OR WHATEVER.

(C) THEY WOULD JOIN AMERICAN UNIONS, PAYING FULL DUES OR AT LEAST A PERCENTAGE OF YEAR'S DUES BASED ON NUMBER OF MONTHS THAT THEY WERE IN THE COUNTRY AND WOULD BE UNDER UNION DISCIPLINE WHILE THEY WERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. I QUERIED HIM ABOUT HIS STATEMENT THAT MEXICO WOULD ATTEMPT TO LIMIT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND HE SAID THAT IF A BRACERO AGREEMENT IS SIGNED, IT WOULD BE INCUMBENT ON BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO TIGHTEN UP ON ILLEGALS. THE U.S. INS SHOULD BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE AND MEXICO LIKEWISE WOULD TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT EGRESS OF ILLEGALS. I QUERIED HIM ON THE LAST STATEMENT, ALLEGING SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUSLY THAT ONE OF OUR DEPARTMENT LAWYERS HAD OBSERVED THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL MIGHT BE CONTRARY TO MEXICAN LAW AND EVEN THE MEXICAN CONSTITUTION. RABASA AT ONCE SAID "THAT MUST BE A VERY GOOD LAWYER YOU HAVE AS I MYSELF HAD FORGOTTEN THAT OUR NEW LAW DOES PROVIDE FOR FREE CIRCULATION OF CITIZENS, INCLUDING RIGHT OF EGRESS FROM COUNTRY." THIS WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY ON MEXICO'S PART, PERHAPS WAY COULD STILL BE FOUND TO GET AROUND LAW, AND IN ANY CASE, "MORAL SUASION" MIGHT BE USED.

4. I REITERATED USEFULNESS(HAVING IN MIND HIS CONFUSION ON MEXICAN LAW AND WISHING TO AVOID A CHILEAN FERTILIZER-TYPE OF MISUNDERSTANDING) OF HAVING A MEMORANDUM. RABASA SAID THAT HE WOULD PREPARE A MEMORANDUM AFTER GIVING THE MATTER MORE CAREFUL THOUGHT AND WOULD EITHER GIVE IT TO THIS EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL OR WOULD SEND IT TO THE DEPARTMENT VIA OLLOQUI.
JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MIGRATORY WORKERS, IMMIGRATION CONTROL, PROPOSALS (BID), FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO07647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740248-0954
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740966/aaaacdnf.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DREYFUSS/JOVA TELECON SEPTEMBER 6
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMPLIFICATION OF RABASA'S VIEWS ON BRACEROS
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, CVIS, US, MX, (RABASA MISHKIN, EMILIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005